

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **February 28, 2006, Work Session**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION:

INFORMATION: **X**

ITEM TITLE: **Progress Report on the Neighborhood Alliance Network**

RECOMMENDATION: None

SUMMARY: Debbie Campbell, Acting Director for the Neighborhood Network Alliance (NAN), will present to Council a report on the first six months of activity of NAN. Working with Albert Jennings, who has departed to take a position at Liberty University, Debbie and Skylyn Hagins have made good progress in advancing the goals of NAN. They have been meeting monthly with the Advisory Committee which has asked that a report be given to Council. Attached is background information.

PRIOR ACTION(S): N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

CONTACT(S): Kimball Payne, 455-3990

ATTACHMENT(S): NAN Six Months Review

REVIEWED BY: lkp

**Neighborhood Alliance Network
Program Accomplishment
Six Months in Review**

July 1, 2005 - February 28, 2006

- Developed Job Descriptions for two newly created Part-Time positions - Community Organizer and Administrative Associate
- Interviewed / hired staff:

Community Organizer: Skylyn W. Hagins, Jr.
Administrative Associate: Deborah A. Campbell

- On-site visit to Neighborhood Centers - Director/Staff
 - Tinbridge Hill
 - Diamond Hill
 - College Hill
 - Daniel's Hill
 - White Rock Hill
- Met with all Neighborhood Association presidents / staff:

Introduced NAN staff
Orient to NAN vision/mission
- Participated in installation service of new board members for the College Hill Neighborhood Association. Provided Financial Management training for College Hill Neighborhood Association - newly appointed officers: Secretary and Treasurer
- Met with Planning Committee for the NAN Kickoff Event. Participants included:
 - Albert Jennings, Director - Neighborhood Alliance Network
 - Skylyn Hagins, Community Organizer - Neighborhood Alliance Network
 - Debbie Campbell, Administrative Assistant - Neighborhood Alliance Network
 - Michelle Jackson, President - College Hill Neighborhood Association
 - Cecelia Hull, Vice President - Diamond Hill Neighborhood Association
 - Delia Hooks, Block Captain - Daniel's Hill Neighborhood Association
 - Tammy Forest, Special Events Manager - Parks and Recreation
 - Rebecca Morrison, Community Center Coordinator - College Hill
 - Vickie Robinson, President - White Rock Hill Neighborhood Association
 - Aubrey Barbour, President - Tinbridge Hill Neighborhood Association

Community celebration planned for November 19, 2005. Objectives of the event:

- Increased collaboration among the associations / team building
- Education - through networking able to identify community resources
- Expansion of neighborhood database - through participants
- Interaction with local government in a non-formal/non-threatening environment

Award recipients:

Ms. Delia Hooks - Daniels Hill Community
Ms. Rachel Johnson - Diamond Hill Community
Mssr. Xaviar Austin (Youth) Diamond Hill Community

- Met with Communications and Marketing staff regarding the development of a web page for the Neighborhood Alliance Network. NAN to develop page with technical assistance from C&M.
- Met with City staff; internal stakeholders of the Healthy Neighborhood Initiative, to bring them up to date and make plans for moving forward. Developed an electronic calendar/database to be used by all for information sharing and to avoid any duplication of processes / programs in the neighborhoods.
- Karen Waters, Director of QCC- Charlottesville, VA met with NAN staff and Advisory Board to discuss QCC and neighborhood initiatives in her community. Focus areas: Public Safety, Youth and Academics, Economic Development / Neighborhood Revitalization, Housing, and Prevention and Treatment.
- Prepared Neighborhood Alliance Network FY07 Budget for review
- Prepared "draft" Comprehensive Communications Plan to:
 - Enhance the visibility and reputation of NAN and the neighborhood associations
 - Help create a more positive and informed media coverage of the inner-city neighborhoods
 - Help change attitudes and create new relationships
 - Help generate public support for neighborhood initiatives
 - Create an informed public
- Participant on the Community Court Planning Process with Commonwealth Attorney's Office
- Committee Member - Statewide Public Housing Planning Committee
- Committee Member - Statewide Neighborhood Planning Committee

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnered with College Hill Neighborhood School, Lead Safe Lynchburg, College Hill Neighborhood Association, and Jo Catlet Karate School to create and implement "Kicking the Lead Out", an educational and mentoring program for College Hill youth. (see attached for update / outcomes)

Also collaborated on "Landscaping with Lead Safety." A program designed to engage ex-gang members and create legitimate job opportunities.

- Partnered with Virginia Organizing Project (VOP) and the Lynchburg Voters League to conduct registration drives in Ward II - James Crossing and College Hill/Shalom. An on-going educational initiative designed to focus on the importance of ex-

offenders regaining their right to vote and understanding the political process. Registered 20 new voters as a result. Ten ex-offenders made application to have their voting rights restored.

- Partnered with Adelphia Public Access Channel 7 regarding a monthly production of the NAN television show, "The Network". First show aired on Wednesday, August 30, at 8:00 p.m. with a discussion of the Voters' Registration / Voter Restoration drives to be held in Ward II. Skylyn Hagins, Community Organizer, hosted the show.
- Developed a draft Board orientation / training document entitled "Neighborhood Association Development Guide." This guide provides associations with information that will help them build and run a more effective organization.
- Met with Sheila Andrews, Domestic Violence Prevention Center to brainstorm potential partnership with College Hill Neighborhood School.
- NAN assisting the College Hill Neighborhood School with possible designation as a "Drug Free" zone.
- Met with LPD Crime Prevention, George Royal and Cindy Kozerow, to discuss the role/impact/collaboration/presence of the police at neighborhood association meetings.
- Met with Blake Isley to discuss the potential for a blanket insurance plan for existing associations when using the parks and recreation facilities.
- NAN facilitated the establishment of College Hill Neighborhood School as a distribution site for City-issued trash bags for use by College Hill residents to combat trash in the neighborhood (particularly the 700 block of Madison Street).
- NAN is in the planning stages of creating a partnership with Liberty University (Campus-serve Outreach), 8th Street Baptist Church, and College Hill Neighborhood Association to implement a Saturday Youth Program. Parks and Recreation Youth and Neighborhood Services will also be asked to participate.
- Youth Leadership Council. Continued development of draft Youth Leadership Council proposal by Community Organizer. Collaboration with YNS of Parks and Recreation and Juvenile Services.

Also met with Ward II residents regarding Youth Basketball League; met with Mrs. Patricia Braxton of Bright Hope Learning Center and South Lynchburg Baptist Church regarding youth programs.

Planning for second "Hip-Hop Summit" is underway for 2006

- Ms. Eyvonne Green, President of the Seminary Hill Neighborhood Association attended the November 19th event. Seminary Hill had not been included in our target area and the association has asked us to reconsider. They have also solicited our help in becoming a more viable organization through leadership training, etc. Attended their association meeting held in February 2006 and began to provide the information on how to move forward. Will engage the Neighborhood Watch

Coordinator, Parks and Recreation and Lead Safe Lynchburg in the process as a result of some of the questions raised during the meeting.

- Neighborhood Executive Advisory Committee. On February 8, 2006 the newly formed Neighborhood Executive Advisory Committee was introduced to City Staff at their Vision Planning - Meet & Greet meeting held at Meredith's in the Plaza. The Committee consists of 21 diverse individuals from across the Lynchburg community (see attached) charged with the:
 - Design and implementation of a plan for leadership succession
 - Identification and creation of collaborative partnerships throughout the neighborhoods between government, civic, and nonprofit entities that will strengthen existing networks within the communities
 - Development of strategies for revitalizing civic organizations within the neighborhoods
 - Facilitation of the neighborhood planning process in collaboration with the Neighborhood Association leadership

While working through their assignment, the Advisory Committee will receive consultation and training from:

VISIONS, Inc., an organization providing training and consultancy in Multiculturalism, addressing tough topics such as:

- Towards a Multicultural Community: "Racism" and other "isms"
- Race as the Target Variable
- Combating "modern racism" - "Is Reconciliation Possible?"
- Dismantling Racism

and, Susan Allen of Employee Assistance of Central Virginia (People Works) addressing:

- Appreciating Differences

Other City staff and agencies, such as Juvenile Services, Parks and Recreation, the Jubilee Center and Clyde Clarke who served on the Governor's Council, when addressing youth issues, Greta Harris of Neighborhoods in Bloom - Richmond and Karen Waters - QCC - Charlottesville when discussing community planning, will be

engaged along the way to provide the committee with the best available resources to ensure their success in accomplishing their assignment.

The next meeting for the committee is scheduled for March 15 where they will develop their operating philosophy and guidelines.

FUNCTIONAL

- Attended Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference - September 22 - 24, 2005.
- Attended National Night Out - August 2, 2005.
- IT has created an email address for NAN: NAN@lynchburgva.gov.
- Contracted with Forrus Creations for the development of the NAN logo.
- Created a NAN informational fact sheet - NAN brochure under development.
- Created a NAN church-listing database with the assistance of Lynchburg College.
- Conducted weekly Staff Development Meetings.
- Appointed to the Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference Planning Committee
- Participated in the College Hill Neighborhood Walk-Through - a neighborhood initiative involving the College Hill Association, Community Police, Council Members and other groups